

Claims

1. A solid unit dosage form comprising citalopram, **characterised in that** it is prepared by direct compression of a mixture of citalopram base or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt and pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, or by filling of said mixture in a hard gelatine capsule.
2. The solid unit dosage form according to claim 1, **characterised in that** it is a tablet prepared by direct compression of a mixture of citalopram base or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.
3. The solid unit dosage form according to claim 1, **characterised in that** it is prepared by filling a mixture of citalopram base or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and pharmaceutically acceptable excipients in a hard gelatine capsule.
4. The solid unit dosage form according to *claim 1* ~~claims 1-3~~, **characterised in that** it does not contain a binder.
5. The solid unit dosage form according to *claim 1* ~~claims 1-4~~, **characterised in that** it contains 2-60% w/w active ingredient calculated as citalopram base, preferably 10-40% w/w active ingredient calculated as citalopram base and more preferred 15-25% w/w active ingredient calculated as citalopram base.
6. The solid unit dosage form according to *claim 1* ~~claims 1-5~~, **characterised in that** it contains a filler selected from lactose, sugars, preferably sorbitol, mannitol, dextrose, and/or sucrose, calcium phosphates, preferably dibasic, tribasic, hydrous and/or anhydrous, starch, modified starches, microcrystalline cellulose, calcium sulfate, and/or calcium carbonate.
7. The solid unit dosage form according to claim 6, **characterised in that** the filler is a microcrystalline cellulose, such as ProSolv SMCC90 or Avicel PH 200.

claim 1
8. The solid unit dosage form according to ~~claims 1-7~~, characterised in that it contains a lubricant selected from metallic stearates (magnesium, calcium, sodium), stearic acid, wax, hydrogenated vegetable oil, talc and colloidal silica.

5 9. The solid unit dosage form according to claim 8, characterised in that the lubricant is magnesium stearate or calcium stearate.

claim 1
10. The solid unit dosage form according to ~~claims 1-9~~, characterised in that it is substantially free of lactose.

10 11. The solid unit dosage form according to ~~claim 1-10~~, characterised in that the active ingredient is citalopram base.

claim 1
12. The solid unit dosage form according to ~~claims 1-10~~, characterised in that
15 the active ingredient is citalopram hydrobromide or citalopram hydrochloride.

13. The solid unit dosage form according to claim 12, characterised in that the active ingredient is citalopram hydrobromide.

claim 12
20 14. The solid unit dosage form according to ~~claims 12-13~~, characterised in that the active ingredient is in the form of crystals with a median particle size below 20 μm .

claim 12
25 15. The solid unit dosage form according to ~~claims 12-13~~, characterised in that the active ingredient is in the form of crystals with a median particle size of at least 40 μm , preferably in the range of 40 – 200 μm , even more preferred 45 – 150 μm and most preferred 50 – 100 μm .

30 16. Crystals of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of citalopram suitable for use in a solid unit dosage form according to claim 15, characterised in that the median particle size of the crystals is at least 40 μm .

17. Crystals according to claim 16, characterised in that the crystals are of citalopram hydrobromide or citalopram hydrochloride.

18. Crystals according to claim 17, characterised in that the crystals are of citalopram hydrobromide.

claim 16
19. Crystals according to ~~claims 16-18~~, characterised in that the median particle size of the crystals is in the range of 40 - 200 μm , preferably 45 - 150 μm and even more preferred 50 - 120 μm .

20. Method for manufacture of crystals of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of citalopram having a median particle size of at least 40 μm and suitable for use in a solid unit dosage form according to claim 15, characterised in that a solution of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of citalopram in a suitable solvent system at a first temperature is first cooled down to a second temperature then seeded by addition of crystals of said citalopram salt followed by a holding time at said second temperature and a controlled cooling down to a third temperature whereupon said crystals are isolated by conventional solid/liquid separation techniques.

21. The method according to claim 20, characterised in that the median particle size of the crystals is in the range of 40 - 200 μm , preferably 45 - 150 μm and even more preferred 50 - 120 μm .

claim 20
22. The method according to ~~claims 20-21~~, characterised in that the dissolved substance is citalopram hydrobromide or citalopram hydrochloride.

23. The method according to claim 22, characterised in that the dissolved substance is citalopram hydrobromide.

claim 20
24. The method according to ~~claims 20-23~~, characterised in that the solvent system comprises one or more alcohols and optionally water.

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25. The method according to claim 24, characterised in that the solvent system is a mixture of methanol and water.

26. The method according to claim 25, characterised in that the methanol:water weight ratio is in the range of 5:1 to 50:1; preferably 10:1 to 30:1 and more preferred 15:1 to 25:1.

27. The method according to *claim 20* ~~claims 20-26~~, characterised in that the solvent:solute weight ratio is in the range of 0.5:1 to 5:1, preferably 0.7:1 to 2:1 and more preferred 0.9:1 to 1.5:1.

28. The method according to *claim 20* ~~claims 20-27~~, characterised in that said first temperature is in the range between 50 °C and the refluxing temperature of the solvent system, preferably between 60 °C and the refluxing temperature and more preferred between 64 °C and the refluxing temperature.

29. The method according to *claim 20* ~~claims 20-28~~, characterised in that said second temperature is in the range of 20-40 °C, preferably 25-35 °C.

30. The method according to *claim 20* ~~claim 20-29~~, characterised in that said holding time is in the range of 30 minutes to 7 days, preferably 1 hour to 4 days and more preferred 12 to 36 hours.

31. The method according to *claim 20* ~~claim 20-30~~, characterised in that said third temperature is in the range of 0-20 °C, preferably 5-15°.

32. The method according to *claim 20* ~~claim 20-31~~, characterised in that said controlled cooling down is a gradual cooling down over a time span in the range of 5 minutes to 6 hours, preferably 15 minutes to 4 hours and more preferred 30 minutes to 2 hours.

33. The method according to *claim 20* ~~claim 20-32~~, characterised in that said isolation of the crystals of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of citalopram from the mother liquor is performed by filtration.

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